

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above identified patent application is hereby respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 7 and 18 have been canceled and claims 1 and 16 have been amended. New base claim 21 has been added. Claims 1-6, 8-17, and 19-21 remain in the case.

The applicant appreciated the thoroughness of the review by Examiner Cassandra Davis and indication of allowability of claims 19 and 20 and of 7, 10, and 13 that were objected to but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form and including the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

A petition and Fee for and Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and payment thereof is attached hereto.

New base claim 21 is presented in accordance with the Examiner's indicated allowability and will be described in greater detail hereinafter. Fee payment is included for one extra claim over 20 and one extra independent claim over three.

1-9. The rejections as applied are noted.

10. Claims 19 and 20 are allowed. Thank you.

11. Claims 7, 10, and 13 are objected to but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This is believed to have been accomplished.

Base claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of now canceled claim 7, an allowable claim. Claim 7 previously depended from claim 1, therefore there were no intervening claims.

Accordingly, claim 1 is now believed to be in condition of allowance. Remaining claims 2-6 and 8-15 depend from claim 1 and therefore include the limitations of allowable claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1-6 and 8-15 are believed to be in condition of allowance and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Previous independent claim 16 has been amended such that the language as was originally presented has been deleted (i.e., removed) and replaced with an identical

recitation as that of original claim 1. To this, the limitations of allowable claim 10 and intervening claim 8 have been added. Claim 10, which originally depended from claim 1, was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if rewritten and including the limitations of the intervening claims. This has been accomplished in the recitation of instant amended claim 16.

Thereby, instant claim 16 is now believed to be in condition of allowance. Remaining claim 17 depends from claim 1 and therefore includes the limitations of allowable claim 16. Accordingly, claims 16 and 17 are believed to be in condition of allowance and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 18 has been canceled.

Claims 19 and 20, as stated before, have been allowed by the Examiner.

New claim 21 includes an identical recitation as that of original claim 1. To this, the limitations of allowable claim 13 and intervening claim 11 have been added. Claim 13, which originally depended from claim 1, was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if rewritten and including the

limitations of the intervening claims. This has been accomplished in the recitation of new independent claim 21.

Thereby, new claim 21 is believed to be in condition of allowance and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The prior art patent to Johnson 5,934,707 made of record and not relied upon that is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure has been reviewed by the undersigned, but is deemed no more relevant than the applied references.

As all remaining claims 1-6, 8-17, and 19-21 appear to be in condition of allowance, reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested, and a notice of allowance is courteously urged at the earliest time.

The applicant appreciates the opportunity to communicate by telephone with the Examiner if necessary. Please continue to direct all correspondence to the correspondence address and telephone as shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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 9/21/03

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